(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Government has not conducted any survey recently.

(d) The results of the values of Quality of Service parameters submitted by the service providers are widely published and put on Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's website so as to make the consumers aware about the quality of service providers. This helps the consumers in selecting their service providers with better quality of service. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) through a process of interaction with service providers attempts to ensure compliance of the regulation.

Tele-density in the country

†2979. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge discrepancy is found in availability of telephone services in urban and rural areas;

(b) if so, the number of telephone available out of the hundred persons in urban and rural areas in each State during 2002; and

(c) the percentage of villages where direct exchange line was available till December, 2002, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that there is a difference in the availability of telephone services in urban and rural areas of the country. The number of telephones available to persons out of hundred persons in urban and rural areas of each State of the country as on 31.12.2002 is given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) The percentage of villages where direct exchange lines through Village Public Telephones(VPT) has been available in each State of the country till December 2002 is given in Statement-II.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I

State-wise Tele-Density (Per 100 population) As on 31-12-02

Sl. No.	Circle/States	Urban	Rural
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	13.62	7.65
2.	Andhra Pradesh	14.86	1.94
3.	Assam	11.43	0.47
4.	Bihar	8.07	0.45
5.	Chhattisgarh	5.23	0.36
6.	Gujarat	15.30	2.30
7.	Haryana	14.48	2.16
8.	Himachal Pradesh	34.28	5.24
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	8.16	0.49
10.	Jharkhand	5.53	0.36
11.	Karnataka	13.96	2.33
12.	Kerala	19.58	7.43
13.	Madhya Pradesh	9.11	0.54
14.	Maharashtra	17.71	2.02
15.	North East	9.13	0.82
16.	Orissa	9.27	0.83
17.	Punjab	22.68	4.43
18.	Rajasthan	10.02	1.23
19.	Tamil Nadu	14.63	1.90
20.	Uttar Pradesh	7.64	0.54
21.	Uttaranchal	11.48	1.23
22.	West Bengal	10.69	0.83
23.	Delhi	28.84	0.00
	TOTAL:	13.71	1.41

Note:
Gujarat includes Union Territories of Dadra Nagar-Haveli & Daman Diu.
Kerala includes the Union Territory of Lakshadweep Islands.
Maharashtra includes the State of Goa.
North East includes the States of Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh Manipur and Nagaland.
Punjab includes the Union Territory of Chandigarh.
Tamil Nadu includes the Union Territory of Pondicherry.
West Bengal includes the State of Sikkim.

Statement-II

State-wise status of VPT's as on 31-12-2002

Sl. No.	States	% of village covered with VPT's
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	98.01
2.	Andhra Pradesh	83.95
3.	Assam	71.67
4.	Bihar	93.41
5.	Chhattisgarh	74.20
6.	Delhi	100.00
7.	Gujarat	77.84
8.	Haryana	99.43
9.	Himachal Pradesh	97.99
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	60.53
11.	Jharkhand	82.86
12.	Karnataka	99.98
13.	Kerala	100.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	73.24
15.	Maharashtra + Goa	76.96
16.	North East-I	41.88
17.	North East-II	32.26
18.	Orissa	85.79
19.	Punjab	100.00
20.	Rajasthan	62.18
21.	Tamil Nadu	100.00
22.	Uttar Pradesh	93.93
23.	Uttaranchal	74.29
24.	West Bengal	98.42
	TOTAL:	83.95

Note: 1. Maharashtra includes figures for Goa.
2. North East-I includes figures for Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
3. North East-II includes figures for Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur.
4. West Bengal includes figures for Sikkim.